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2 **CLAIMS:**

3 What is claimed is:

1 1. A system for managing digital assets in a
2 distributed data processing system, the system
3 comprising:
4   a network of data processing systems;
5   a plurality of local knowledge management servers
6 connected to the network wherein each of the plurality of
7 local knowledge management servers is connected to and
8 maintains a local digital asset repository;
9   a central knowledge management server; and
10   a central registry of digital assets; wherein
11   each of the plurality of local knowledge management
12 servers sends location and identifying information
13 concerning a digital asset to the central knowledge
14 management server whenever a digital asset is saved to a
15 local digital asset repository corresponding to an
16 appropriate one of the plurality of knowledge management
17 servers; and
18   the central knowledge management server stores the
19 location and identifying information concerning the
20 digital asset in the central registry of digital assets.

1 2. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein each of
2 the plurality of local knowledge management servers
3 presents a user interface to a user to allow the user to

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4   access digital assets stored on any one of the local

5   digital asset repositories within the network.

1   3.   The system as recited in claim 3, wherein the user

2   interface allows the user to perform administrative tasks

3   and set up local work flows.

1   4.   The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the

2   central knowledge management server authenticates local

3   knowledge management servers before accepting information

4   from the local knowledge management server for storage on

5   the central registry of digital assets.

1   5.   The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the

2   central knowledge management server performs at least one

3   of providing access to the central registry of digital

4   assets to local knowledge management servers, enables

5   automatic check-in/check-out of digital assets into the

6   central registry of digital assets, provides version

7   control of digital assets, provides a shadow registry for

8   redundant copies of digital assets, and captures

9   statistics of and about the digital assets.

1   6.   The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the

2   central knowledge management server provides at least one

3   of generating reports based on digital asset usage,

4   generating reports based on digital asset type,

5   generating reports based on business unit, generates

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6 reports based on geography, and generates reports based
7 on revenues.

1 7.   The system as recited in claim 1, wherein a one of
2 the plurality of local knowledge management servers
3 retrieves the location of a requested digital asset by
4 querying the central knowledge management server and,
5 once the location of the requested digital asset is
6 determined, retrieves the requested digital asset
7 directly from another one of the plurality of local
8 knowledge management servers on whose corresponding local
9 digital asset repository the requested digital asset is
10 located.

1 8.   The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the
2 digital assets comprise at least one of text, audio,
3 video, photographs, and graphics.

1 9.   A method of managing digital assets in a distributed
2 data processing system, the method comprising:
3   receiving a request to store a digital asset;
4   storing the digital asset on a local digital asset
5 repository; and
6   sending information to a central registry of digital
7 assets, wherein the information indicates the identity of
8 the digital asset and the location that the digital asset
9 is stored.

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1   10.   The method as recited in claim 9, further
2   comprising:
3   determining a security level of the digital asset;
4   and
5   sending security level information to the central
6   registry of digital assets.

1   11.   The method as recited in claim 9, wherein sending
2   information to a central registry of digital assets
3   comprises:
4   sending the information from a local knowledge
5   management server to a central knowledge management;
6   authenticating at the central knowledge management
7   server that the local knowledge management server is
8   authorized to save digital asset information to the
9   central registry of digital assets; and
10   saving, by the central knowledge management server,
11 the information in the central registry of digital assets
12 if the local digital asset management server is
13 authorized.

1   12.   The method as recited in claim 11, further
2   comprising:
3   refraining, at the central knowledge management
4   server, from saving the information in the central
5   registry of digital assets if the local knowledge
6   management server is not authenticated.

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1   13.   A computer program product in a computer readable
2   media for use in a data processing system for managing
3   digital assets in a distributed data processing system,
4   the computer program product comprising:
5   first instructions for receiving a request to store
6   a digital asset;
7   second instructions for storing the digital asset on
8   a local digital asset repository; and
9   third instructions for sending information to a
10 central registry of digital assets, wherein the
11 information indicates the identity of the digital asset
12 and the location that the digital asset is stored.

1   14.   The computer program product as recited in claim 13,
2   further comprising:
3   fourth instructions for determining a security level
4   of the digital asset; and
5   fifth instructions for sending security level
6   information to the central registry of digital assets.

1   15.   The computer program product as recited in claim 13,
2   wherein sending information to a central registry of
3   digital assets comprises:
4   fourth instructions for sending the information from
5   a local knowledge management server to a central
6   knowledge management server;
7   fifth instructions for authenticating at the central
8   knowledge management server that the local knowledge
9   management server is authorized to save digital asset

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10   information to the central registry of digital assets;

11   and

12   sixth instructions for saving, by the central

13   knowledge management server, the information in the

14   central registry of digital assets if the local knowledge

15   management server is authorized.

1   16. The computer program product as recited in claim 15,

2   further comprising:

3   seventh instructions for refraining, at the central

4   knowledge management server, from saving the information

5   in the central registry of digital assets if the local

6   knowledge management server is not authenticated.

1   17. A system for managing digital assets in a

2   distributed data processing system, the system

3   comprising:

4   first means for receiving a request to store a

5   digital asset;

6   second means for storing the digital asset on a

7   local digital asset repository; and

8   third means for sending information to a central

9   registry of digital assets, wherein the information

10   indicates the identity of the digital asset and the

11   location that the digital asset is stored.

1   18. The system as recited in claim 17, further

2   comprising:

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3   fourth means for determining a security level of the
4 digital asset; and
5   fifth means for sending security level information
6 to the central registry of digital assets.

1 19. The system as recited in claim 17, wherein sending
2 information to a central registry of digital assets
3 comprises:
4   fourth means for sending the information from a
5 local knowledge management server to a central knowledge
6 management server;
7   fifth means for authenticating at the central
8 knowledge management server that the local knowledge
9 management server is authorized to save digital asset
10 information to the central registry of digital assets;
11 and
12   sixth means for saving, by the central knowledge
13 management server, the information in the central
14 registry of digital assets if the local knowledge
15 management server is authorized.

1 20. The system as recited in claim 19, further
2 comprising:
3   seventh means for refraining, at the central
4 knowledge management server, from saving the information
5 in the central registry of digital assets if the local
6 knowledge management server is not authenticated.

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